Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-4, and add new claims 5-20 as follows:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled).

5. (New) An optical connector for physically coupling a first plurality of parallel optical fiber wires in respective contact with a second plurality of parallel optical fiber wires, and said first plurality of optical fiber wires defining an axis, said optical connector comprising a plug and coupling member adapted to be fitted with each other;

(a) wherein said plug includes

a fitting side engageable with said coupling member;

a seat for supporting said first plurality of optical fiber wires, said seat having a front end;

a bottom plate extending toward said fitting side of said plug beyond said front end of said seat; and

a top plate disposed parallel to said bottom plate, and extending toward said fitting side of said plug beyond said front end of said seat;

said first plurality of optical fiber wires being supported between said bottom plate and said top plate toward said fitting side of said plug and cantilevered beyond said front end of said seat; and

(b) wherein said a coupling member includes

a receiving portion for receiving said first plurality of optical fiber wires, said receiving portion including an axis, a first end, and a support region adapted to support said first plurality of optical fiber wires along said axis of said receiving portion;

said axis of said receiving portion being offset from said axis of said first plurality of optical fiber wires when said first plurality of optical fiber wires is about to be inserted into said receiving portion;

said receiving portion further including a guide region provided at said first end thereof and on an extension of said axis of said first plurality of optical fiber wires when said first plurality of optical fiber wires is about to be inserted into said receiving portion; and

said guide region being suitable, when fitting said plug with said coupling member, for contacting said first plurality of optical fiber wires and, as said plug and said coupling member are moved toward each other, to bend and guide said first plurality of optical fiber wires toward said support region;

wherein said bottom plate and said top plate sandwich said coupling member therebetween when said plug and said coupling member are fitted together.

6. (New) The optical connection of claim 5, further comprising a second guide region at a second end of said receiving portion opposite to said first end thereof, said second guide region being suitable for contacting said second plurality of optical fiber wires to bend and guide said second plurality of optical fiber wires toward said seat when fitting said plug with said coupling member.

7. (New) The optical connector of claim 6, wherein

said seat further includes a rear end and a top surface having a plurality of grooves, said plurality of grooves being equal in number to said first plurality of optical fiber wires;

each optical fiber of said first plurality of optical fiber wires is disposed within a respective one of said plurality of grooves; and

said first plurality of optical fiber wires is fixed to said seat on said rear end of said seat.

8. (New) The optical connector of claim 5, wherein said guide region has a surface inclined toward said support region.

9. (New) The optical connector of claim 8, wherein

said seat further includes a rear end and a top surface having a plurality of grooves, said plurality of grooves being equal in number to said first plurality of optical fiber wires;

each optical fiber of said first plurality of optical fiber wires is disposed within a respective one of said plurality of grooves; and

said first plurality of optical fiber wires is fixed to said seat on said rear end of said seat.

10. (New) The optical connector of claim 5, wherein

said seat further includes a rear end and a top surface having a plurality of grooves, said plurality of grooves being equal in number to said first plurality of optical fiber wires;

each optical fiber of said first plurality of optical fiber wires is disposed within a respective one of said plurality of grooves; and

said first plurality of optical fiber wires is fixed to said seat on said rear end of said seat.

11. (New) The optical connector of claim 8, wherein said support region has a V-shaped section.

12. (New) The optical connector of claim 11, wherein

said seat further includes a rear end and a top surface having a plurality of grooves, said plurality of grooves being equal in number to said first plurality of optical fiber wires;

each optical fiber of said first plurality of optical fiber wires is disposed within a respective one of said plurality of grooves; and

said first plurality of optical fiber wires is fixed to said seat on said rear end of said seat.

13. (New) The optical connection of claim 11, further comprising a second guide region at a second end of said receiving portion opposite to said first end thereof, said second guide region being suitable for contacting said second plurality of optical fiber wires to bend and guide said second plurality of optical fiber wires toward said seat when fitting said plug with said coupling member.

14. (New) The optical connector of claim 13, wherein

said seat further includes a rear end and a top surface having a plurality of grooves, said plurality of grooves being equal in number to said first plurality of optical fiber wires;

each optical fiber of said first plurality of optical fiber wires is disposed within a respective one of said plurality of grooves; and

said first plurality of optical fiber wires is fixed to said seat on said rear end of said seat.

15. (New) The optical connection of claim 8, further comprising a second guide region at a second end of said receiving portion opposite to said first end thereof, said second guide region being suitable for contacting said second plurality of optical fiber wires to bend and guide said second plurality of optical fiber wires toward said seat when fitting said plug with said coupling member.

16. (New) The optical connector of claim 15, wherein

said seat further includes a rear end and a top surface having a plurality of grooves, said plurality of grooves being equal in number to said first plurality of optical fiber wires;

each optical fiber of said first plurality of optical fiber wires is disposed within a respective one of said plurality of grooves; and

said first plurality of optical fiber wires is fixed to said seat on said rear end of said seat.

17. (New) The optical connector of claim 5, wherein said support region has a V-shaped section.

18. (New) The optical connector of claim 17, wherein

said seat further includes a rear end and a top surface having a plurality of grooves, said plurality of grooves being equal in number to said first plurality of optical fiber wires;

each optical fiber of said first plurality of optical fiber wires is disposed within a respective one of said plurality of grooves; and

said first plurality of optical fiber wires is fixed to said seat on said rear end of said seat.

19. (New) The optical connection of claim 17, further comprising a second guide region at a second end of said receiving portion opposite to said first end thereof, said second guide region being suitable for contacting said second plurality of optical fiber wires to bend and guide said second plurality of optical fiber wires toward said seat when fitting said plug with said coupling member.

20. (New) The optical connector of claim 19, wherein

said seat further includes a rear end and a top surface having a plurality of grooves, said plurality of grooves being equal in number to said first plurality of optical fiber wires;

each optical fiber of said first plurality of optical fiber wires is disposed within a respective one of said plurality of grooves; and

said first plurality of optical fiber wires is fixed to said seat on said rear end of said seat.